

STAFFORD AGRICULTURE COMMISSION

ESTABLISHMENT

In accordance with CGS 7-131v there shall be established an Agriculture Commission to be designated as the "Stafford Agriculture Commission" (hereinafter referred to as the "Agriculture Commission").

MEMBERSHIP; APPOINTMENTS AND VACANCIES; TERMS

The Agriculture Commission will consist of 7 members and 2 alternates appointed by The Board of Selectmen in accordance to Connecticut General Statutes. Insofar as practical, members appointed shall be representative of all groups interested in the management, protection and regulation of agriculture, as defined by Connecticut General Statutes Chapter 1 Section 1-1q, particularly those directly involved in agriculture, including there shall be an ad hoc seat for one FFA (Future Farmers of America) or 4-H member for a term of one year who shall be non-voting member but eligible to fully participate in all discussions.

The failure of a voting member to attend four (4) consecutive meetings of the commission may constitute cause for the Board of Selectmen to remove the member and fill the position thus vacated. A chair, vice chair and a secretary will be appointed by its members and will serve for a term of one year, except for the 1st year the Board of Selectmen will appoint the Chairperson.

LENGTH OF TERM: Staggered 2-year terms, with initial appointments to be 4 members for 2 years and 3 members for 1 year; 1 alternate to be for 2 years and 1 alternate for 1 year. Members of the Commission shall serve without pay.

DUTIES: Advisory only

1) Provide information to local farmers and to municipal boards and commissions about the benefits of a balance between agriculture and other land uses; (2) educate municipal officials about agricultural laws and safety issues; (3) identify grant sources for farmers and municipalities; (4) enable a common understanding of agriculture among all municipal departments; (5) provide information and guidance about zoning issues relating to agriculture; (6) support local, regional and state vocational agricultural programs concerning agricultural matters; (7) provide conflict resolution and advisory services; (8) identify innovative opportunities for agriculture; and (9) create a climate that supports the economic viability of agriculture in the municipality.

MEETINGS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

The meetings of the Agriculture Commission shall be open to the public and it shall comply with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act.

Approved 4-12-2017

Effective 5-2-2017